AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

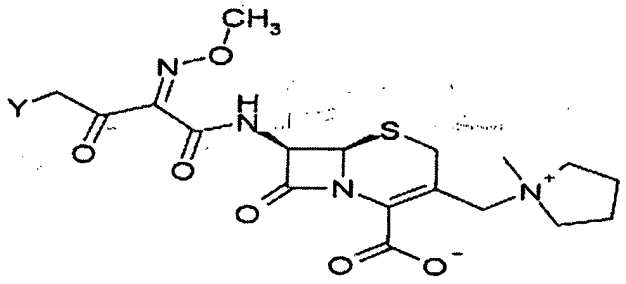
Claim 1. (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the compound of formula IIA or IIB is a compound of formula IIA wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-iodide monohydrate is used.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-chloride or pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxylato-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-dihydrochloride is used, optionally in solvated form.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A compound of formula V



V

wherein Y and X are Cl and wherein m=1.

Claim 6 (Original). A compound as claimed in claim 5 in crystalline form wherein the compound of formula V is in free base or acid addition salt form.

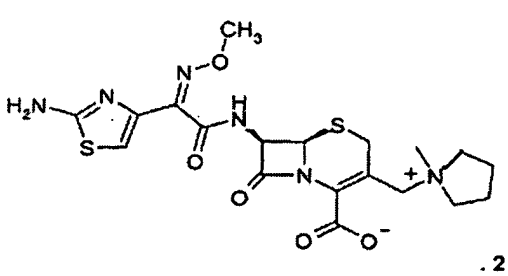
Claim 7 (Original). A compound as claimed in claim 6 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 1 or Figure 2.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). A process according to claim 19, wherein 4-chloro-2-methoxyimino-3-oxo-butyryl chloride is used as the reactive derivative of formula III.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein ~~prior to precipitation or crystallisation of the compound of formula I, any bromide or iodide ions that may be present are removed by ion exchange~~ the step of isolating the compound of formula I comprises the step of removing any bromide or iodide ions that may be present by ion exchange and the step of precipitating or crystallizing the compound of formula I.

Claims 10 – 18 (Cancelled).

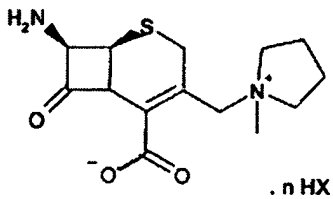
Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A process for producing a compound of formula I



I

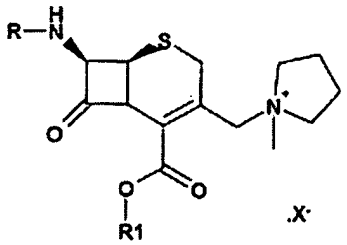
. 2 HCl . H_2O

wherein a compound of formula IIA or IIB



II A

. n HX



IIB

wherein

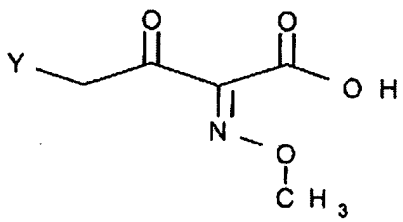
R_1 is a trialkylsilyl group,

R is hydrogen or a trialkylsilyl group,

n is 0 - 2 and

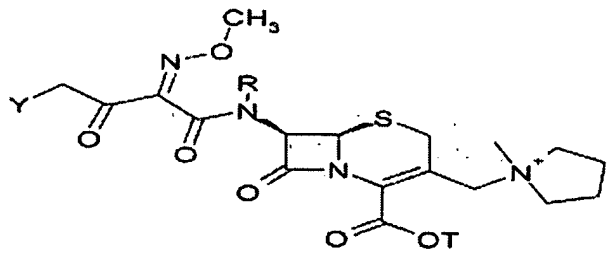
X signifies chloride, bromide or iodide

is reacted with a reactive derivative of formula III



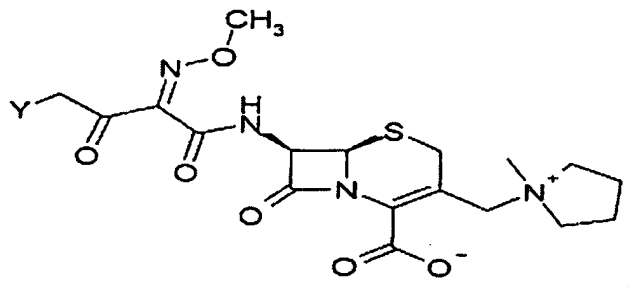
III

wherein Y signifies halogen ~~or a leaving group~~, to form a compound of formula IV or V



IV

wherein T is trialkylsilyl, the silyl protecting groups, if present, are removed, or the compound of formula IV as the acid addition salt of formula V is isolated wherein m is [[0 or]] 1 and the compound of formula IV



V

. m HX

or the compound of formula V is cyclised with thiourea, and subsequently the compound of formula I is isolated.